

XX on FIG Governance

Terms of Reference

(To be approved by the General Assembly, May 2018)

1. BACKGROUND

As the premier international organization representing the interests of its members worldwide, it is essential FIG continually reviews its role and function to remain relevant, and provide membership services and professional surveying advice to not only to its members but also its global partners. Using FIG's extensive network, its various international forums for discussion, and unique capability to assist the development of professional practice and standards, FIG needs to consider how its existing "governance framework" will meet the survey professions challenges and expectations for the future.

FIG went through major structural changes in its governance and administration about twenty years ago (1998). Since then minor reviews has been made as well as minor changes. However, significant changes have been seen within the profession. The geospatial industry and land professions are dealing with major global challenges such as rapid urbanisation and the effects of climate change. FIG is becoming a major collaborator and partner with multinational organisations such as the United Nations, World Bank, the scientific and academic community and operational professional surveyors. With this comes an added expectation that FIG surveyors will provide technical solutions and provide professional advice to address sustainable development (UN SDGs) and humanitarian needs. This responsibility is not only a FIG Council responsibility, but also extends to and needs the full support of the entire FIG structure. The roles and functions of commissions, networks and our member engagement need to be better aligned and fit for the future.

The Member Associations have now asked for a review to see if the current administration, including how FIG is organised, internal rules and governance, is still valid or if changes are necessary to ensure an even stronger FIG that is fit for the future. The structure of FIG, including the FIG Commissions, has been robust and resilient and has remained, generally, the same for since 1998. This structure has enabled FIG to achieve significant global outcomes and to support our international membership, however it has been recognised by the General Assembly that new and emerging processes, technologies and initiatives are not very easily connected into the current structure.

For example –

- How should we map in BIM, Smart Cities or Blockchain technology into our existing commission structure?
- How do we ensure that rapidly evolving new surveying and mapping technologies are managed and understood within our current organisation?
- How can we ensure that we are able to meet the needs of important global initiatives such as the UN SDGs and New Urban Agenda and how can we support our Member Associations and survey related National institutions in understanding these initiatives?

- How can we ensure that FIG can effectively play an important international role in a dynamic and rapidly changing environment?
- How can FIG increase its profile and role now that the UN is playing an even more important global role in the field of global geospatial information management (UN GGIM)?
- How can we ensure that FIG has a strong and consistent succession plan for chairs, vice presidents and president (officers) over time? Is a four year appointment period too long and does it put members off standing for office?

Considering the above questions, the General Assembly at the Helsinki FIG 2017 Work Week asked volunteers among the Member Associations to draft Terms of Reference for a future work group to evaluate the governance framework of FIG. Consequently, this document proposes and provides these Terms of Reference.

2. OUTCOME

The outcome for this group is to ensure the governance framework (which includes the administration and organisational structure of FIG) is effective, efficient and dynamic so as to meet the future needs and expectations of members. This TOR identifies the following key outcomes from the review:

1. Documented analysis of the FIG governance framework, being the administration and organisational structure of FIG, in terms of how it meets the current and future needs and expectations of member associations
2. Recommendations and proposed changes to the FIG governance framework
3. Recommendation regarding the ongoing need for a group to review FIG governance and responsiveness to member association requirements, and the form and structure such a review group should take.

3. OBJECTIVES THE TASK FORCE

The main objectives of the group will be to -

- a) Evaluate the present governance framework of FIG; and if required,
- b) Based on the findings, propose changes and, if necessary, an alternative internal structure of FIG to meet the future “needs and expectations” of its membership.

The group will also present periodic reports on their findings concerning current FIG governance, this may also include or suggest incremental changes and improvements for FIG General Assembly and Council to consider.

The group must undertake this via a unified, collaborative, transparent and consultative approach with all FIG members. The Task Force should identify, consult and discuss with our internal and external stakeholders what we are doing well, what we can do better, challenges or trends affecting and influencing the future, and how to resolve such matters.

4. PATHWAY and IMPLEMENTATION (to be completed...)

It is proposed that a work plan shall be created by the group, it is recommended that –

- A “SWOT” analysis of the FIG governance framework be performed and involves FIG members and the FIG Office.
- Key FIG materials be reviewed, including reports and recommendations from previous Task Forces, and information from various Member Association meetings and forums facilitated by FIG.
- The current structure and function of FIG be evaluated, via a participatory process including the Council, ACCO, Commissions, Networks, Task Forces and the FIG Office.
- Consultation (online) with FIG membership.
- Development and preparation of a report on the task force findings, which may include recommendations to Council and General Assembly.
- *The group should complete its work in 2 years and the final report be ready for consideration and endorsement by the General Assembly at the FIG 2020 Working Week in Amsterdam.*

The group should present interim/periodic reports on findings concerning the current FIG governance, which may include: preliminary analyses and recommendations, reports from meetings held and a first draft of proposed changes and improvements for General Assembly and Council to consider.

Whilst a core group will have the responsibility for implementing this TOR, the group must undertake this via a unified, collaborative and consultative approach with all FIG members. In other words, the Task Force should identify, consult and discuss with our internal and external stakeholders what we are doing well, what we can do better, challenges or trends affecting influencing the future, and how to resolve such matters

5. PROPOSED WORK PLAN

With respect to the work plan, it is expected and highly recommended that the group –

- Forms and begins work as soon as possible.
- Consider the above-mentioned pathways and implementation initiatives as ‘milestones’ within the work plan.
- The work programme will be done through email, and where feasible “face to face” meetings will be organised to coincide with FIG related events.

6. COMPOSITION OF TASK FORCE

To be decided but a diverse group of individuals that represent all FIG membership categories is preferred.

7. CHAIR OF THE GROUP

To be decided by the Task Force